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NORTH CAROLINA

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Farm Report

COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

No. 83

RALEIGH, N. C.

APRIL 13, 1951

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. WHAT ARE PROSPECTS FOR THE 1951 PEACH CROP?
2. ARE SUPPLIES OF GRAINS LARGER THAN LAST YEAR?
3. DISCUSS FEBRUARY LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER.
4. ARE MARCH BROILER PLACEMENTS HIGHER THAN FEBRUARY?
5. SUMMARIZE MARCH WEATHER CONDITIONS.
6. WHAT WAS THE FARM OUTLOOK AS OF APRIL 1?
7. HOW DOES MARCH MILK PRODUCTION COMPARE WITH 1950?
8. COMPARE CHICKEN PRODUCTION IN 1950 WITH 1949.
9. DISCUSS 1951 TRUCK CROP CONDITIONS.

CURRENT SITUATION

MAY 1 - 1951

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

APRIL 1, 1951 GENERAL FARM REPORT

FARM OUTLOOK FAVORABLE

March, as usual, was a month of variable weather conditions. During the first week of the month, the temperatures were unusually high, ranging in the 60's and 70's. On the 10th, however, cold air moved over the State and temperatures dropped below freezing on numerous occasions up through the 15th. Intermittent spells of warm and cool weather with some frosts have followed since.

As of April 1, soil conditions were generally favorable over the State except in some mountain areas where the soil was too wet. Land preparation has progressed well in practically all areas with limited spring planting underway in central and southern Coastal Plain areas.

Prospects are generally bright for small grains. The cold winter and recent frosts have inflicted minor damage; however, with good stands and hardened growth, the crops should produce well.

Likewise, prospects for peaches and apples are good at present. However, fruit crops are by no means entirely safe yet.

(Continued on Page 2)

BROILER OPERATIONS CONTINUE ON HIGH LEVEL

During the month of March, commercial hatcheries in North Carolina placed 2,342,000 chicks with broiler producers in the Chatham-Wilkes commercial broiler areas. This is 25 percent above February placements and 22 percent greater than the 1,919,000 chicks placed during March of last year.

Hatcherymen serving the two areas placed a total of 3,209,000 eggs in incubators during the month -- 16 percent more than February settings and 14 percent more than the number of eggs set during March a year ago.

Chicks hatched, at 2,428,000, was 19 percent above the number hatched during the month of February and was 227,000 above hatchings during March 1950.

1951 PEACH PROSPECTS FAVORABLE FOR NORTH CAROLINA

In North Carolina peach prospects are very good. Some orchards were nipped by frosts in late March, but no apparent damage resulted.

Condition of peaches in the 10 Southern States on April 1 was 65 percent of normal. This compares with 62 percent reported a year ago and the 10 year April 1 average of 72 percent.

PEACHES
CONDITION APRIL 1

STATE	AVERAGE 1940-49	1948	1949	1950	1951
N. C.....	78	70	43	71	80
S. C.....	73	69	33	64	86
GA.....	74	76	54	57	75
FLA.....	71	71	61	45	54
ALA.....	70	70	53	41	38
MISS.....	72	70	62	53	35
ARK.....	71	68	84	71	29
LA.....	72	69	75	77	43
OKLA.....	62	29	76	73	48
TEX.....	69	36	82	58	52
10 STATES	72	67	55	62	65

MARCH MILK PRODUCTION SHOWS SLIGHT INCREASE

True to the normal seasonal pattern for milk production on North Carolina farms, March production showed a sharp increase over the previous month. Total milk production of 135 million pounds compared with 122 million pounds for February of this year and 131 million pounds for March, 1950.

The increase in the production for March this year compared to March last year was due to an increase in numbers of milk cows on farms, since milk produced per cow for the month was the same as that of a year ago.

March milk production per cow totaled 354 pounds compared with 320 during February, 1951.

The average number of milk cows on farms during March, including both dry and milked animals, totaling 381,000 head showed no change from February, but was an increase of 11,000 head over the 370,000 milk cows on farms during March a year ago.

BEEF CATTLE NUMBERS ARE INCREASING IN NORTH CAROLINA



GRAIN STOCKS ON FARMS ON APRIL 1

CROP	AVERAGE	1950		1951	
	1940-49	STOCKS	PERCENT a/	STOCKS	PERCENT a/
	000	000	000	000	000
NORTH CAROLINA					
CORN, BU.....	25,016	33,910	43.7	34,986	42.7
WHEAT, BU.....	1,203	651	12.0	598	11.0
OATS, BU.....	1,450	2,009	17.0	2,135	18.0
BARLEY, BU....	168	153	17.0	115	13.0
RYE, BU.....	35	12	6.0	27	13.0
SOYBEANS, BU..	885	1,056	25.0	1,126	22.0
UNITED STATES					
CORN, BU.....	1,241,674	1,637,208	48.4	1,353,108	43.2
WHEAT, BU.....	222,565	199,175	17.5	217,261	21.2
OATS, BU.....	467,789	484,685	36.5	559,676	38.2
BARLEY, BU....	82,323	69,921	29.5	88,869	29.5
RYE, BU.....	4,769	3,332	17.8	4,237	18.4
SOYBEANS, BU..	37,427	45,778	19.8	46,114	16.1

a/ Percent of previous year's crop

EGG PRODUCTION UP SEASONALLY

Farm flocks in North Carolina produced 112 million eggs during March -- an increase of 40 percent over production during the preceding month, but down 8 percent from the 121.4 million eggs produced in the Tar Heel state during March 1950.

The increase over February was due entirely to the seasonal increase in rate of lay. The average number of layers on farms dropped from 7,461,000 in February to 7,122,000 in March while the rate of lay increased from 1,070 per 100 layers to 1,569.

The number of layers on farms during the month was 678,000 less than the number on hand a year earlier

FARM OUTLOOK (Continued)

Reports and field observations indicate that the tobacco plant situation is very favorable. In all Belts, stands of plants in beds and progress of growth are normal or better. Very few reports of blue mold have been received thus far and insect damage has been at a minimum. Despite these favorable conditions, farmers seem quite well prepared for any eventual disease or insect control measures which may become necessary. Little or no transplanting has taken place as of this date; however, with continued favorable weather, transplanting should get underway in the Border Belt at about the normal time or during the week beginning April 9.

The outlook for livestock remains favorable. Pastures are greening up and beginning to grow as a result of intermittently warm weather during recent weeks, thus providing a considerable amount of grazing. Grain and dry forage supplies appear to be adequate.

LARGE SUPPLIES OF GRAINS HELD IN FARM STORAGE

Total stocks of the six major grain crops on North Carolina farms April 1, 1951 are estimated at 38,987,000 bushels. This is an increase of 3 percent over stocks on farms a year ago and 36 percent greater than the 10-year average of 28,755,000 bushels.

The increase in grain supplies on farms came primarily as a result of larger stocks of corn. However, soybeans, rye and oats also showed an increase over last year. Wheat and barley stocks were slightly lower than on April 1 a year ago.

Corn stocks on Tar Heel farms as of April 1 were the highest of record. The 34,986,000 bushels of corn held in farm storage is almost 43 percent of last year's record production.

Across the Nation, relatively large stocks of feed grains remained on farms on April 1. While about one-fifth less than the peak April 1 tonnage in 1949, and a tenth less than on April 1, 1950, current farm reserves are larger, both in total and per animal unit to be fed than on any April 1 prior to 1949.

Current farm stocks of corn at 1,353 million bushels, are much smaller than on the same date of the past two years. The 560 million bushels of oats on farms were exceeded only by April 1 stocks in 1946 and 1949. The 89 million bushels of barley are larger than average farms stocks.

Wheat stocks of 217 million bushels on farms, while 9 percent larger than a year ago, are smaller than on April 1 of most recent years. Rye stocks of 4.2 million bushels are larger than a year ago. The 46 million bushels of soybeans still in farm storage are about the same as a year earlier and third highest of record.

TRUCK CROP PROSPECTS GOOD

STRAWBERRIES: North Carolina's strawberry crop is currently estimated at 2,200 acres, 100 acres under 1950 and 38 percent below the 10-year (1940-49) an average of 3540 acres. Based on condition reports as of April 1, a yield of 85 (24 quart) crates per acre is in prospect for the crop -- an increase of 35 percent over the 63 crate yield of 1950 and 2 crates per acre more than the 10-year average yield. Total production in the State is estimated at 187,000 crates.

CABBAGE: Late spring cabbage acreage for harvest in N. C. this year is estimated at 2,600 acres. This is the same as the acreage harvested last year and almost 57 percent greater than the 10-year average of 1,660 acres.

North Carolina's cabbage crop is quite variable in size. Stands generally are good and the crop has made good growth during the past two weeks.

POTATO ACREAGE DOWN SHARPLY

As of April 1, 1951, growers of commercial early Irish potatoes in North Carolina indicate plantings this year will total 16,200 acres. This is a decrease of 37 percent from the 25,700 acres planted last year and is less than half the 10-year average of 32,550 acres. Planting has been completed, and generally, the crop is now coming up to a good stand. Some growers in the State had to replant a portion of their crop due to rotting of seed pieces but in general, the condition of the crop is above average. To date, frost damage has been very light. Soil moisture supplies are adequate in all areas.

Growers in the late spring group of states, which includes North Carolina, have reduced their acreage over 27 percent from last year. The total potato acreage in these states is estimated at 111,400 for 1951 as compared to 153,600 acres harvested last year and the 10-year average of 174,610 acres.

RYE PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

Reports from growers as of April 1 show an 86-percent-of-normal condition for rye. This condition is slightly above the 1940-49 average of 85 percent for the first of April but 3 percent below the condition on the same date last year.

The crop has not made extensive growth thus far due to winter conditions. However, the overall condition of the crop promises favorable yields.

FARM LABOR RATES INCREASE

Farm wage rates in North Carolina both on the per day and the hourly basis were higher on April 1 than on the same date last year.

The rate per day for house furnished labor on April 1 was \$3.80 as compared to \$3.45 the same date a year ago. The rate per day for labor without house or meals furnished averaged \$4.50 per day or \$.30 per day above the rate on April 1 last year.

The April 1 average wage rate per hour for house furnished labor was \$.45 -- an increase of \$.04 over April 1 a year ago. There was also an increase in wage rates for labor not furnished housing or board from 49 to 53 cents per hour.

For the nation farm wage rates rose 6% in the past three months and on April 1 were 13% higher than a year ago. There were 4% fewer persons working on farms during the week March 18-24 than during the same period in 1950.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM PRODUCTION, SALES AND CASH RECEIPTS FROM EGGS, 1946-50

Year	Eggs Produced	Eggs Sold	Price Per Doz.	Cash Receipts
	Million ^{1/}		Cents	Thousand Dollars
1950	1,009	677	40.0	22,567
1949	1,009	681	48.6	27,580
1948	923	601	50.3	25,192
1947	981	648	48.0	25,920
1946	980	628	41.6	21,771

^{1/} Rounded to nearest whole million.

WHEAT PROSPECTS FAVORABLE

The current forecast of wheat production in North Carolina is placed at 6,540,000 bushels. This estimate is based upon the condition of the crop as of April 1. Should such a production materialize, this year's crop would be about a fifth larger than that of last year.

Generally, the State's wheat crop is in good condition. Because of the relatively cold winter, growth of the crop by the first of April was not as far advanced as at this time last year. However, the crop has not suffered materially from cold. In fact, it is felt that cold conditions have hardened the crop and will tend to make it safer in case of any late freezes this year. For the most part, stands are good. Only minor disease and insect damage have been sustained thus far.

For the entire Nation, a crop of 726.5 million bushels is expected

NORTH CAROLINA COMMERCIAL BROILER PRODUCTION AND GROSS INCOME, 1946-50

Year	Produced Number Pounds		Price Per Pound	Gross Income ^{1/}
	Thousands		Cents	Thousand Dollars
1950	25,015	70,042	26.3	18,421
1949	21,943	61,440	26.9	16,527
1948	18,286	53,029	34.7	18,401
1947	16,182	45,310	32.9	14,907
1946	14,711	42,662	32.3	13,780

^{1/} Includes consumption in households of producers which is less than 1 percent of total production.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM PRODUCTION, DISPOSITION, CASH RECEIPTS AND GROSS INCOME FROM CHICKENS

ITEMS	UNIT	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946
Raised ^{1/}	Thousand Head	17,549	20,406	18,894	20,100	21,383
Lost ^{2/}	Thousand Head	2,107	1,952	2,001	2,180	2,248
Produced ^{3/}	Thousand Head	15,442	18,454	16,893	17,920	19,135
Change in Inventory ^{4/}	Thousand Head	+30	+240	+315	-1,579	-1,112
Consumed in Farm Household.....	Thousand Head	9,270	9,557	9,016	9,491	9,785
Sold.....	Thousand Head	6,142	8,657	7,562	10,008	10,462
Produced.....	Thousand Pounds	57,748	68,016	63,737	67,777	71,604
Consumed in Farm Household.....	Thousand Pounds	30,591	31,538	30,654	33,218	33,269
Sold.....	Thousand Pounds	27,025	35,494	31,760	41,033	42,894
Price per Pound....	Cents	25.4	27.3	30.7	28.5	28.8
Cash Receipts.....	Thousand Dols.	6,864	9,690	9,750	11,694	12,353
Value of Chickens Consumed.....	Thousand Dols.	7,770	8,610	9,411	9,467	9,581
Gross Income.....	Thousand Dols.	14,634	18,300	19,161	21,161	21,934

^{1/} Does not include young chickens lost or commercial broilers.

^{2/} Loss during the year of chickens on hand January 1.

^{3/} Chickens sold plus consumed in household of farm producers, and the plus or minus change in inventory.

^{4/} Change in inventory numbers during the year.

CHICKEN PRODUCTION DOWN IN 1950

A total of 15,442,000 chickens (excluding commercial broilers) were produced on North Carolina farms during 1950. Production during the year dropped almost 16 percent below the 18,454,000 produced in 1949.

Compared with the previous year, sales of chickens also dropped sharply during 1950. The 6,142,000 chickens sold from North Carolina farms during the year represented a decrease of 29 percent from the 8,657,000 sold a year earlier.

Chickens consumed in farm households totalled 9,270,000 -- down about 3 percent from the number consumed in 1949.

Inventories of chickens on farms on January 1, 1951 were up 30,000 from a year earlier to 11,117,000.

Cash receipts from sales of chickens in 1950 dropped 29 percent from receipts of the preceding year. Chickens sold from Tar Heel farms last year brought an estimated \$6,884,000 while in 1949, producers realized \$9,690,000 from the sale of chickens.

Although most of the decline in 1950 cash receipts was due to the drop in the number of chickens marketed, the loss in income was due in part to a 1.9 cents per pound price decline. The average price per pound producers received in 1950 was 25.4 cents as compared to 27.3 cents the preceding year.

Commercial Broiler production reached an all time high during 1950. During the year, a total of 25,015,000 broilers weighing 70,042,000 pounds were produced in the State -- up 14 percent from the previous record set a year earlier.

Gross income from broilers at \$18,421,000 was up only 11 percent from 1949, however, due to a decline of 3.3 cents per pound in price.

The average price per pound producers received for broilers in 1950 was 26.3 cents per pound or 11 percent under the average price of 29.6 cent per pound received for broilers in 1949.

Egg production in 1950 showed no change from the preceding year, totalling 1,009 million eggs. Although there were slightly more layers on North Carolina farms during 1950 than in 1949, the rate of lay was down slightly so production showed no change.

Egg sales were off slightly in 1950. The 677 million sold during the year compares with 681 million sold during the preceding year. Cash receipts from egg sales, however, dropped 18 percent to \$22,567,000 and was the lowest gross income from egg sales North Carolina farmers had realized since 1946. The large decline was due chiefly to an 8.6 cents per dozen drop in the price farmers received for eggs in 1950.

FARM REPORT

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FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

MARCH WEATHER SUMMARY

March was a well behaved month as far as the weather was concerned. The first nine days were unusually warm in most of North Carolina, but cold air finally succeeded in its efforts to push southward across the State on the 10th. Chilly weather predominated for the next 20 days with only slight warming possible between successive onslaughts of cool air masses. A storm that developed in the middle Mississippi Valley on the 28th moved northeastward to the Great Lakes Region on the following day and returned warm weather to North Carolina on the final days of the month. The conflict between warm and cold air resulted in considerable cloudiness and frequent rain in North Carolina. Total sunshine was below long-time averages.

Highest temperatures in the 60's and 70's were a daily occurrence in most areas outside of the mountains during the warm periods at the beginning and near the end of March. From the 10th to the 27th readings above the 60-degree mark were rare except in southern counties. There was no unusually cold weather this month and temperatures averaged from near normal to as much as two degrees above in parts of the west and south. Temperatures failed to drop to the freezing mark in parts of the southeast but freezing occurred on at least 3 other days elsewhere in the State. Frost was reported frequently in the interior.

Frequent rains this month resulted in total rainfall amounts near normal in the greater part of North Carolina. Several counties in the interior Coastal Plains and eastern Piedmont were slighted, however, while southwestern counties were deluged with far more than usual rainfall amounts. About the only significant snow this month was in the mountains.

SPECIES	NORTH CAROLINA				UNITED STATES			
	Number Slaughtered		Total Liveweight		Number Slaughtered		Total Liveweight	
	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951	1950	1951
	Thous. Head	Thous. Lbs.	Thous. Head	Thous. Lbs.	Thous. Head	Thous. Lbs.	Thous. Head	Thous. Lbs.
Cattle...	5.5	6.3	4,353	5,209	1,291.8	1,220.9	1,246,134	1,201,978
Calves...	4.6	3.4	706	671	780.2	653.7	144,469	116,973
Sheep & Lambs...	-	.1	-	9	937.0	790.4	96,153	81,195
Hogs.....	31.0	39.0	7,230	8,578	5,207.6	5,222.1	1,219,108	1,245,784

* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

FEBRUARY SLAUGHTER UP 18%

Production of meat in commercial plants in North Carolina during February, 1951 totalled 14,467,000 pounds. This was an increase of 18 percent over the 12,289,000 pounds produced during February 1950. Increases were shown in slaughter of

all species of livestock except calves. In numbers slaughtered, hogs showed the greatest increase, with 26 percent more hogs processed in February 1951 than a year earlier. In liveweight, however, cattle, slaughter showed the greatest increase.

NORTH CAROLINA - INCHES OF RAINFALL DURING MARCH, 1951

